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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A half-bridge inverter is powered from an ordinary electric utility power line by way of a full wave rectifier-filter means. The high frequency voltage output of the inverter is loaded with a series-combination of a tank inductor and a tank capacitor, with a fluorescent lamp being connected in parallel with the tank capacitor. The ON-time of each of the inverter's two transistors is shorter than half the period of the high frequency voltage; thereby preventing the two transistors from conducting simultaneously; thereby, in turn, protecting the inverter from self-destruction in case of lamp failure.

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